

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of communicating message data between a
2 plurality of subsystems which are distributed across a data
3 communications network, the method comprising:

4 coupling the distributed subsystems together through a
5 coupling means with a shared memory;

6 providing at least one shared queue in the shared
7 memory;

8 providing access to the shared queue from each of the
9 coupled subsystems; and

10 communicating message data between the distributed
11 subsystems by means of the shared queue.

12 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality
13 of subsystems is a distributed network of resource managers.

14 3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality
15 of subsystems are all part of a sysplex.

16 4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one
17 application program is connected to a subsystem, and wherein
18 the subsystem manages the message data for the at least one
19 application program.

1 5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling
2 means is a coupling facility with data structures for the at
3 least one shared queue and a database.

1 6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the database
2 stores queue definitions for the at least one shared queue.

1 7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least
2 one shared queue includes a shared transmission queue.

1 8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each subsystem
2 has a long running process to check the at least one shared
3 queue for message data for that subsystem.

1 9. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subsystems
2 also have local non-shared queues.

1 10. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein message data is
2 sent from a first subsystem to a second subsystem by the
3 first subsystem putting a message on a shared queue and the
4 second subsystem getting the message from the shared queue.

1 11. An apparatus for communicating message data,
2 comprising:

3 a plurality of subsystems distributed across a data
4 communications network;

5 a coupling means with a shared memory the shared memory
6 having at least one shared queue;

7 means associated with each subsystem for accessing the
8 at least one shared queue; and wherein

9 message data is communicated between the distributed
10 subsystems by means of the shared queue.

1 12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the
2 plurality of subsystems is a distributed network of resource
3 managers.

1 13. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the
2 plurality of subsystems are all part of a sysplex.

1 14. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least
2 one application program is connected to a subsystem, and
3 wherein the subsystem manages the message data for the at
4 least one application program.

1 15. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the
2 coupling means is a coupling facility with data structures
3 for the at least one shared queue and a database.

1 16. An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the
2 database stores the queue definitions for the at least one
3 shared queue.

1 17. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the at
2 least one shared queue includes a shared transmission queue.

1 18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein each
2 subsystem has a long running process to check the at least
3 one shared queue for message data for that subsystem.

1 19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the
2 subsystems also have local non-shared queues.

1 20. A computer program comprising computer readable program
2 code for performing the steps of:

3 providing at least one shared queue in a shared memory;
4 providing access to the shared queue from each of a
5 plurality of subsystems coupled to the shared memory wherein
6 said subsystems are distributed across a data communications
7 network; and

8 communicating data between the distributed subsystems
9 by means of the shared queue.

1 21. An apparatus for communicating message data within a
2 distributed data communications network, the apparatus
3 including a resource manager for receiving messages from
4 input message queues and forwarding the messages to
5 destination message queues, the resource manager including:

6 a coupling facility manager component providing
7 connection services for the resource manager to connect to a
8 coupling facility list structure to perform operations on
9 list structure entries including connect;

10 a message retrieval agent for accessing at least one
11 shared queue in shared memory associated with the coupling
12 facility;

13 wherein the message retrieval agent enables the
14 resource manager to access messages directly from the shared
15 queue of a connected coupling facility.

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